

Today's Topics:

ARRL (2 msgs)
Does anyone know what S.A.S is ?
My backyard, your backyard ...
Nuther opinion on Mac vs PC
requests for Mods to Amateur Gear Reported to FCC
RFC: Sony ICF-SW1S General Coverage Receiver
SWL Interest
To QSL or not to QSL...
Transceiver Opinions Wanted
Wall Street Journal on cordless phone listening
Wanted: Unix based satellite prediction program - source preferred

Date: 5 Dec 89 17:33:37 GMT

From: swrinde!zaphod.mps.ohio-state.edu!brutus.cs.uiuc.edu!jarthur!bridge2!mips!
wyse!steve@ucsd.edu (Steve Wilson xttemp dept303)

Subject: ARRL

Message-ID: <2540@wyse.wyse.com>

In article <24896@ubvax.UB.Com> hardwick@ubvax.UB.Com (Bob Hardwick) writes:

> stuff deleted...

>FCC type acceptance is the bottom consideration, as well as common sense.

>We hope the FCC will discuss the appropriate aspects with the individuals

>concerned. It is no wonder that others are able to attack our hobby,

>since we provide them the ammunition to do so.

>Thank you for your consideration on this.

>

>Mike N6KZB @ N6KZB Orange Section ARRL ASM.

> Telecommunications Engineer II, RCOFD.

>

>

>If this is what the ARRL is doing with our dues money then

>the ARRL has just lost a member.

Bob,

The thing that concerns me is that your willing to quit ARRL due to what one "Section Level" volunteer official said. He probably shouldn't have used his title in the posting! I'm assuming that his section manager approved the posting, if not, then the fellow is operating on his own initiative. When any league appointee posts to a public forum (packet, or usenet as examples) we need to be VERY careful about what we say/do because it can easily be interpreted as League policy. I've chosen to put my own title on by the signature this time just to indicate that I would most likely have been informed in some manner about such a policy. Again let me emphasize volunteer apointee! Very little of your dues reaches the field

organization that this fellow is a part of. We certainly get some financial support from ARRL, but its mostly in the way of printed stationary or reimbursement for stamps and such. As an example, I think my section has a total budget of approximately \$2000/year.

As far as I'm aware, there is no national directive for the Amateur auxiliary to do anything about about this particular issue. (They would be the ones who would talk to the FCC on ARRL's behalf.) Besides, even if it were a concern, I have a lot larger fish to fry than worry about this. I have enough jammers, bootleggers, etc to deal with locally to keep me busy for an eon. I just haven't seen anything from ARRL nationally telling me to worry about this. (I wouldn't anyway)

Steve Wilson
00 Co-ordinator, SCV section

P.S. John, have you seen anything about this from hq?

Date: Tue, 5 Dec 89 11:04:25 -0800
From: Doug Faunt N6TQS 415-688-8269 <faunt@cisco.com>
Subject: ARRL

I just forwarded that message to the ARRL mcimail account for comment. I have now sent two messages to the ARRL, and one to Horzepa, and have gotten a paper reply to one, Email reply to another, and I just sent off the last with my comments, and request for a reply. They do read their Email.
73 de doug, N6TQS

Date: 5 Dec 89 05:25:18 GMT
From: netcom!stratus!cloud9!jjmhome!cpoint!die@apple.com (David I. Emery)
Subject: Does anyone know what S.A.S is ?
Message-ID: <3036@cpoint.UUCP>

Can anyone shed any light on the Air to Air microwave (EHF) link between the National Emergency Airborne Command Post (the fancy 747 with all the consoles) and Air Force One called "SAS" ? It is my understanding that the NEACP aircraft or at least a command post aircraft of some kind is kept within the 400 mile line of site range of Air Force One at all times (this has certainly been obviously the case when the president has gone to Europe). As best as I can tell the two aircraft maintain a microwave (they've called it "EHF") secure voice link

(probably at least two 50 kbs secure voice circuits), and some sort of secure fax circuit. It seems that the command post aircraft, which are equipped with X band satcom dishes under radomes relay the 56kbs secure circuits to the White House ("Crown") via the X-band satcom or other (LOS) circuits they maintain.

The command post aircraft apparently carry SAS antennas spaced around the aircraft that cover quadrants or less (they talk about the right rear for example).

Would I be correct in guessing that SAS stands for Secure Autovon System or perhaps Secure Air-to-Air System or Stealth Airborne System? Can anyone speculate on what microwave band or approximate frequency this system operates ?

Would I be correct if I guessed that the AF-1 circuits code named "Alpha" and "Bravo" are the two SAS secure voice circuits (I know that "Delta" are the UHF-FM-FDM "Nightwatch" multiplex 12 (4 active) channel unencrypted Autovon voice circuits) ?

Would I be completely wrong to guess that this (AF1-SAS-NEACP-XBandSatcom-Crown) link is now the principle path for secure voice circuits from AF-1 ? (There seems to be little or no activity on the UHF Fleetsatcom full duplex FSK 16 kb KY-58 secure voice channel from AF-1 that replaced the old 1.2 kb vf modem over FM Fleetsatcom circuit)

With appropriate preamps and horns/dishes could one see the SAS signal on a spectrum analyzer (as one can the UHF-FDM and secure voice (KY-3) signals which stick out like the proverbial sore thumbs), or do the SAS links use techniques that make them nearly invisible such as highly directional antennas or very wideband direct sequence spread spectrum ? I imagine that to get reliable 50 kb performance over a 400 mile path they must either use highly directional antennas or significant power (at least several watts). Am I wrong ?

A too curious cat ... who would probably be better off reading the National Enquirer than asking such silly questions ...

David I. Emery Clearpoint Research Corp.
35 Parkwood Dr, Hopkinton Ma. 01748 1-508-435-7462
{decvax, cybvax0, mirror}!frog!cpoint!die
{m2c}!jjmhome!cpoint!die, Internet: die@cpoint.clearpoint.com

Date: 5 Dec 89 16:19:24 GMT
From: shelby!neon!kaufman@decwrl.dec.com (Marc T. Kaufman)
Subject: My backyard, your backyard ...

Message-ID: <1989Dec5.161924.4716@Neon.Stanford.EDU>

In article <7500004@hpfco.HP.COM> ron@hpfco.HP.COM (Ron Miller) writes:

>Re: Pay for scanning

>A few years ago, when satellite dishes were new and expensive,
>a professor my wife took a class from had a mondo setup. The local
>cable company kept coming around to his house "advising" him that
>he was stealing service.

>His response was to write a letter requesting them to bill him.

>They never did because they couldn't figure out how to do it! (And
>the "advisors" went away.

I (jump to the presumption) that the professor was Taylor Howard, founder of Chapparral Communications and Professor of RadioScience at Stanford (he also has an experiment flying on the Galileo spacecraft).

In fact, it was he who first approached HBO and offered to pay for the service. HBO figured that, since satellite reception was SO difficult and SO expensive, no one would want to do that -- so they refused to send him a bill.

I think HBO has changed its mind about this.

Marc Kaufman (kaufman@Neon.stanford.edu)

Date: Tue, 5 Dec 89 13:07:30 EST
From: pescatore_jt%ncsd%gte.com@RELAY.CS.NET
Subject: Nuther opinion on Mac vs PC
Message-ID: <8912051807.AA03562@bunny.gte.com>

KENDALLG@VTVM1.CC.VT.EDU ("Gary F. Kendall") writes:

>My dilemma is whether a Macintosh
>would *really* be worth the extra \$\$\$ in comparison to an IBM-compatible
>system, especially in terms of available 'plug-in' hardware boards ...

(and someone else wrote a pretty good response.)

I have an old PC clone (Columbia Data Products, remember them?) and a Macintosh SE, a pretty recent purchase. I think the bottom line is that if you are comfortable with using DOS and function keys, and have no real problem with or objection to remembering the commands and key assignments, a PC will be much cheaper and much more flexible for you. Especially for ham radio

use. There is a lot of good DOS ham software, and very little Mac ham SW (even less good Mac ham SW). In fact, if the addressing schemes on UUCP, USENET, etc. haven't yet driven you bananas, then you will probably save a lot of money sticking with DOS based PCs.

On the other hand, if you or someone else who is likely to be a regular user of the computer you purchase, are not technoids or will only be casual users, especially children, the extra \$\$ you pay for the Mac will be well worth it. I'm sure by now every one has heard enough about the interface, but it really is a lot easier to use. This becomes really apparent if you get used to a certain word processor at work (for instance, I'm using VMS TPU right now), and then occasionally use one at home. Relearning Word or Perfect writer on DOS each time is a bear (yeah, yeah, all you CTRL-ALT-DEL fanatics quickly get CTRL-Q-Z burned into your skull for repaginate, I know), while the Mac interface really does require you to remember very little.

If you want to encourage your kids to play on the computer (I think elementary schools ought to teach typing, not cursive), the Mac has a big advantage. As far as add on boards, I've found very little need for them on either the Mac or the PC. I added a multi function board to my PC, but the Mac already came with the ports, RAM, and clock.

What would I recommend? If you (the experienced UUCP/USENETer) are the only user, get a PC. You will save a lot of money, and find a lot of ham radio application SW around. If you grit your teeth everytime you type PESCATORE_JT@GTE.COM%LIPOSUCTION!JJHOME!EAT!AT_JOES then get a Macintosh. If your want to get non-computer-weenies to become computer users, get a Macintosh.

PS - RF wise, by using shielded RS232 cables, with only pins 2,3, and 7 connected, and by putting some chicken wire over the fan exhaust, I got rid off all my PC rf problems.

73 John WB2EKK @N4QQ PESCATORE_JT%NCSD%GTE.COM

Date: Fri, 12 May 89 12:00:00 EDT
From: U009%CCIW.bitnet@ugw.uts.utoronto.ca
Subject: requests for Mods to Amateur Gear Reported to FCC
Message-ID: <89Dec5.111649est.57442@ugw.uts.utoronto.ca>

> Mike N6KZB @ N6KZB Orange Section ARRL ASM.
> Telecommunications Engineer II, RCOFD.
>>> N6KZB @ WB6ASR To: ALL @ USA writes:

> ...

> Locally we provide the FCC enforcement section call signs of anyone
> requesting how to or trying to stimulate a data base on illegal mods.
> ...
> We hope the FCC will discuss the appropriate aspects with the individuals

Well, I guess he should "REVIEW" for all subscribers on the Bitnet side of the List, and possibly ask the UWO Modifications list server for it's accounting of requests by ID. OK, I'll admit it... I ... I DID read the line that said something about D19... No... Please... Don't hit me again...

Do I detect a "Big Brother" (or little brother sucking up to Big Brother) syndrome developing here.

Regards, Stu Beal, VE3MWM, (U009@CCIW.BITNET),
National Water Research Institute,
Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

(If you're not 100 percent satisfied with these statements,
just route 'em back. We offer a full, money-back guarantee:
all comments cheerfully disclaimed.)

Date: Tue, 5 Dec 89 10:34:55 EST
From: Michael Harpe <MEHARP01%ULKYVM.BITNET@CORNELLC.cit.cornell.edu>
Subject: RFC: Sony ICF-SW1S General Coverage Receiver

I am looking for comments on the Sony ICF-SW1S general coverage receiver. I have a catalog from Communications Electronics that shows this unit complete with an external (active?) antenna, power supply, headphones and nifty carrying case for under \$300.

Is this as good a deal as it appears to be? Please respond directly to me. I'll summarize if the response volume warrants it.

"It's never too late to have a happy childhood"

- Unknown

Michael Harpe, N4PLE | BITNET: MEHARP01@ULKYVM
316B Ormsby Building | VOICE: 502-588-7785
University of Louisville | FAX: 502-588-5048
Louisville, KY 40292 | AURAL: "Mike!"

Contents under pressure: Do not throw into fire

Date: Tue, 5 Dec 89 08:57:52 PST
From: GOLDFINGER%ATF.MFENET@CCC.NMFECC.GOV
Subject: SWL Interest
Message-ID: <891205085752.5280012c@CCC.NMFECC.GOV>

I'm new to INFO-HAMS and have seen several references to short wave listening. I would be interested in learning how to get more information on using bulletin boards, E-mail, archived stuff relative to SW and scanning. Can someone please tell a 'beginner' how to get on board to some of this stuff?

For example, a few days ago someone referred to 'rec.radio.shortwave' and /news/spool/rec/radio/shortwave. What is this stuff and how do I get to it?
Thanks!

Date: Tue, 5 Dec 89 10:41:39 CST
From: dube@cpdvax.csc.ti.com (DUBE TODD)
Subject: To QSL or not to QSL...
Message-ID: <8912051752.AA14616@ti.com>

I recently got back into Ham Radio after about 35 years off the air. I dug out my old logbook (KN4DWW) and looked up a few of the guys I had worked in 1955 and sent one of my current QSL cards to them...just to see if they were still active or remembered "back then".